2.10 MEXICAN GRAY WOLF (Canis lupus baileyi) (Endangered)

2.10a. Action Area

The action area includes all areas potentially affected, directly or indirectly, by all aspects of the project. Potential habitat for Mexican gray wolf is found within portions of Santa Cruz County containing oak and pine/juniper savannas above 4,000 ft (1,200 m). Wolves may travel long distances during hunting expeditions, typically in an irregular circle 20 mi (34 km) to 60 mi (68 km) in diameter. The action area for the Mexican gray wolf considered for the proposed action includes all potential habitat and travel corridors in western Santa Cruz and southern Pima County.

2.10b. Natural History and Distribution

Mexican gray wolves (Figure 21) are the smallest and southernmost of the 5 subspecies of gray wolf in North America. The Mexican gray wolf is a large dog-like carnivore with a mixed brown, rust, black, gray, and white. This species has a distinct white lip line, chin, and throat. Adults weigh between 50-90 lbs (23-41 kg) (Hoffmeister 1986). The historic range was from southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, southwestern



Texas, and south through the Sierra Madre of Mexico. The Mexican gray wolf is the southernmost occurring most endangered subspecies in North America. This wolf is the last subspecies of gray wolf known to occur in the Arizona-New Mexico area. The last known naturally occurring specimen in the United States was found in New Mexico in 1970 (USFWS 2001d).

Figure 21. Mexican gray wolf.

Historically, Mexican gray wolf habitat was montane woodlands, presumably because of the favorable combination of cover, water, and prey availability. Most wolf collections came from pine, oak, and pinyon-juniper woodlands, and intervening or adjacent grasslands above 1,372 m (4,500 ft) (Brown 1983b). Wolves avoided desertscrub and semidesert grasslands, but wooded riparian corridors were probably used for travelling and hunting (Parsons 1996).

These are social animals in the dog family that live and travel in packs of 7 to 30 animals depending upon prey size and availability. Mexican gray wolves prey upon a variety of animals from mice and squirrels to deer and elk. Territory size can range from 30 (78 km²) to 500 mi² (1,295 km²) or more. Packs are led by a pair of dominant animals that control most of the breeding. Breeding season lasts from late winter to early spring, and the dominant female produces up to 6 pups for the pack. The wolves care for the pups communally.

During the late 1800s through the mid 1900s, extensive hunting, trapping, and poisoning efforts at local, state, and federal levels resulted in the extirpation of this species from the United States portion of its range. Reintroduction efforts of captive bred wolves are under way in the Blue Range Recovery Area of eastern Arizona and New Mexico. Fourteen packs have been released to date.

2.10c Critical Habitat

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

2.10d Current Status Statewide

Mexican gray wolves were listed as endangered by the USFWS in 1976 (41 FR 17736) without critical habitat. In 1998, an experimental, non-essential population was designated for the southwest (63 FR 1763) and a reintroduction program was initiated. Eleven wolves from captive breed stock were reintroduced into the Apache National Forest in southeastern Arizona under the experimental, non-essential designation in an effort to re-establish the subspecies to a portion of its historic range. A Recovery Plan for this subspecies was completed in 1982 and revisions are currently in progress (USFWS 2001d).

Mexican gray wolf populations steadily declined in Arizona because of predator control programs and conflicts with livestock interests. Pressure to control wolves became a priority beginning in the 1920s when this subspecies was nearly eliminated from the state and prevention of wolves from entering from Mexico was undertaken. In 1921 and 1922, a reported 58 wolves were taken by trapping or poisoning in Arizona. By 1924, reported takings dropped to 29 and by 1936, to 5. After 1952, only 2 wolves were reported taken in Arizona, 1 in 1958 and another in 1960 (Hoffmeister 1986). Reports of Mexican gray wolves living in the wild in Arizona continued into the early 1970s (USFWS 1982).

Similar predator control programs in Mexico reduced populations and may have eliminated the wolf by the 1980s. Surveys conducted in Mexico in the early 1990s did not confirm Mexican gray wolf populations in the wild (Parsons 1996).

2.10e Environmental Baseline

The environmental baseline is an analysis of the effects of past and ongoing human and natural factors leading to the current status of the species, its habitat, and ecosystem within the action area. The environmental baseline defines the current status of the species and its habitat in the action area to provide a platform to assess the effects of the action now under consideration.

The Tumacacori EMA contains some areas of montane and riparian woodlands that may serve as dispersal corridors for Mexican gray wolves. If wolf populations exist in the mountains of Sonora, these corridors may be used as hunting and dispersal corridors. There are currently no plans to reintroduce the Mexican gray wolf into southern Arizona and, because of the distance and fragmentation of intervening habitat, it is unlikely that current experimental populations in northern Arizona could disperse into Santa Cruz County.

2.10f Effects of Proposed Action on the Mexican Gray Wolf

Direct Effects

Construction Noise and Activity

Because the only wild populations of Mexican gray wolves in Arizona occur in the Apache National Forest, disturbance from construction of the proposed action, even in suitable dispersal habitat, is highly unlikely. In the event that populations of wolves exist in Mexico and could disperse into southern Arizona, the greatest likelihood of disturbance will result from the use of helicopters during early morning or late evening hours. However, because of the linear nature of the proposed action, any noise or construction disturbance will be widely distributed and relatively minor in any single area.

Indirect Effects

Habitat Modification and Fragmentation

Roads can reduce habitat value because of habitat fragmentation and edge effects. Gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in Wisconsin are limited to places with pack-area mean road densities of 0.7 mi/1 mi² (1.1 km/1 km²) or less (Mladenoff et al. 1995). Some studies have shown that a few large areas of low road density, even in a landscape of high average road density, may be the best indicator of suitable habitat for large vertebrates (Rudis 1995). Access and construction roads for the proposed action commonly are spurs from existing roads and range between 500 ft (152 m) and 1,000 ft (305 m) in length, which do not isolate or separate habitat patches. Furthermore, construction activities within montane woodlands, riparian corridors or major canyons will be minimal and widely distributed, resulting in negligible impacts to the composition or structure of Mexican gray wolf habitat.

Increased Legal and Unauthorized Access to Mexican Gray Wolf Habitat

Gray wolves experience negative interactions with humans and roads are a key facilitator (Thiel 1985). Increased human access to potential wolf habitat through the use of temporary proposed construction roads could reduce the quality of the habitat and human interactions may increase mortality (Mech 1973). The road closure techniques outlined in the SECTION 1.4 and the RA (URS 2003) will minimize unintended uses of these roads.

Accidental Wildfire

Increased road access may contribute to an increase in the frequency of human-caused ignitions in some areas (Gucinski et al. 2001). Because of their mobility, wolves will not likely be directly impacted by wildfires; however, these wildfires could potentially alter or destroy portions of prey species habitat. While the short-term effects of wildfires may affect prey species through loss of forage from the fire, increased herbaceous production in the years following a fire may improve habitat in the long term.

New roads also may act as firebreaks and improve response time of firefighters to wildfires, thereby preventing these fires from gaining in size and intensity. A study in southern California concluded that the road network had been a key factor in determining suppression strategies were used, both in firefighter access and because roads were

widely used for backfiring and burning-out operations (Salazar and Gonzalez-Caban 1987). Early studies of fuelbreak effectiveness in southern California came to similar conclusions (Green 1977). If deemed appropriate, new roads may allow fuelwood collection in areas currently not accessible, thereby reducing the density of downed, woody material, which is capable of carrying wildfires across the landscape. Fire prevention measures outlined in the Fire Prevention Plan will minimize the risks of wildfires associated with the proposed action.

Invasive Species

Roads may be the first point of entry for invasive species into a new landscape, and can serve as a corridor along which plants move farther into the landscape (Lonsdale and Lane 1994, Greenberg et al. 1997). Some invasive plants may then be able to move into adjacent patches of suitable habitat. Invasion by these plants may have significant biological and ecological effects if the species are able to disrupt the structure or function of an ecosystem. Roads constructed for the proposed action could allow the establishment or increased density of non-native plants, such as Lehmann's lovegrass, an invasive species that facilitates wildfires (McPherson 1995). Measures outlined in the Invasive Species Management Plan will minimize the introduction or spread of invasive species as a result of the proposed action.

2.10g Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects include the effects of future state, local, or private actions that are reasonably certain to occur in the action area considered in this BA. While the action area for this species encompasses private, state, and federal lands, the habitat with the highest potential for occupancy by Mexican gray wolf occurs on USFS land in Santa Cruz County. Future federal actions will be subject to Section 7 consultation and will not be considered cumulative.

Although the amount of future private development within Santa Cruz County is unknown, many rural areas of Arizona are experiencing substantial growth. Between 1990 and 2000, Santa Cruz County grew 29.3 percent (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). Despite its distance from the proposed action, an increase in population in Nogales, Arizona and other regional population centers translates into an increased demand for recreational use of USFS land.

An undetermined level of border crossings by UDI also occurs within the action area and results in habitat damage from new roads, discarded trash, illegal campfires, and disturbance near water sources. These border crossings are likely to continue or increase.

2.10h Effects Determination and Incidental Take

Construction noise and activity associated with the proposed action may affect the Mexican gray wolf, but it is not likely to adversely affect the species because any disturbance will be widely distributed and short term in duration.

Because the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the Mexican gray wolf, no take is anticipated.

3.0 USFS SENSITIVE SPECIES

USFS special status species are plant and wildlife species that are of concern because their populations are declining in size. In a letter dated 25 April 2002, AGFD listed 40 USFS Sensitive species that are known to occur in the vicinity of the proposed corridor or may be expected to occur along the corridor if suitable habitat exists. The information listed in the letter was based on AGFD Heritage Data Management System. AGFD species abstracts and other literature also were reviewed for species' historical ranges and habitat preferences. While field reconnaissance surveys were conducted along the entire corridor, species-specific surveys were impractical because of ongoing drought conditions in the project area, therefore the potential presence of sensitive species was assumed in all areas containing potential habitat. The 40 USFS Sensitive species that may occur on or near the proposed Western Corridor are listed in Table 4.

TABLE 4. SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON U. S. FOREST SERVICE SENSITIVE SPECIES.		
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Alamos Deer Vetch Lotus alamosanus	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Arid Throne Fleabane Erigeron arisolis	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Arizona Giant Sedge Carex ultra	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Arizona Metalmark Calephelis rawsoni arizonensis	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Mitigation plantings of host species will reduce impacts.
American Peregrine Falcon Falco peregrinus anatum	No Impacts	Seasonal restriction will prevent disturbance to species within project area.
Bartram's Stonecrop Graptopetalum bartramii	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Beardless Chinch Weed Pectis imberbis	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Species is adapted to disturbances.

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED). SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON U. S. FOREST SERVICE SENSITIVE SPECIES.		
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Catalina Beardtongue Penstemon discolor	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Cave Myotis Myotis velifer	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 No known roosts within project area. Only small percentage of foraging habitat within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona.
Chiltepine Capsicum annuum var.glabriusculum	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Chihuahuan Sedge Carex chihuahuensis	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Chiricahua Mountain Brookweed Samolus vagans	No Impacts.	No construction in perennial aquatic habitats.
Five-Stripped Sparrow Aimophila quinquestriata	No Impacts.	Potential habitat and know occurrences are outside project area.
Foetid Passionflower Passiflora foetida	No Impacts.	Known populations occur outside project area.
Gentry Indigo Bush Dalea tentaculoides	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Giant Spotted Whiptail Cnemidophorus burti strictogrammus	No Impacts.	Known populations occur outside project area.

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED). SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON U. S. FOREST SERVICE SENSITIVE SPECIES.		
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Large-Flowered Blue Star Amsonia grandiflora	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Lowland Leopard Frog Rana yavapaiensis	No Impacts.	Known populations occur outside project area.No construction in perennial aquatic habitats.
Lumholtz Nightshade Solanum lumholtzianum	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Mexican Garter Snake Thamnophis eques megalops	No Impacts.	No construction in perennial aquatic habitats.Minimal impacts to riparian habitat.
Mock-Pennyroyal Hedeoma dentatum	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Nodding Blue-eyed Grass Sisyrinchium cernuum	No Impacts.	Known populations occur outside project area.
Northern Gray Hawk Asturina nitida maxima	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Mitigation of riparian vegetation. Populations within Arizona appear stable.
Santa Cruz Beehive Cactus Coryphantha recurvata	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Santa Cruz Star Leaf Choisya mollis	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Santa Cruz Striped Agave Agave parviflora ssp. parviflora	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Plants occur throughout Nogales Ranger District. Mitigation plantings of agave will reduce impacts.

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED). SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON U. S. FOREST SERVICE SENSITIVE SPECIES.		
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Seeman Groundsel Senecio carlomasonii	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Sonoran Noseburn Tragia laciniata	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Southern Pocket Gopher Thomomys umbrinus intermedius	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Superb Beardtongue Penstemon superbus	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Supine Bean Macroptilium supinum	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	Pre-construction surveys will be conducted and, if necessary, mitigation measures will be coordinated with USFS personnel.
Sweet Acacia Acacia smallii	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Thurber Hoary Pea Tephrosia thurberi	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Thurber's Morning-glory <i>Ipomoea thurberi</i>	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Virlet Paspalum Paspalum virletti	No Impacts.	Known populations occur outside project area.

TABLE 4 (CONTINUED). SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON U. S. FOREST SERVICE SENSITIVE SPECIES.		
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Weeping Muhly Muhlenbergia xerophila	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Western Barking Frog Eleutherodactylus augusti cactorum	No Impacts.	Known populations occur outside project area.
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Wiggins Milkweed Vine Metastelma mexicanum	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Populations within Arizona appear stable. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Wooly Fleabane Laennecia eriophylla	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.

3.1 PLANTS

Alamos deer vetch (*Lotus alamosanus*)

Alamos deer vetch is a perennial herb found in southern Arizona, and Sonora, Chihuahua, and Durango, Mexico. Within Arizona, this plant is found in Sycamore Canyon and the Pajarito Mountains of Santa Cruz County, and near Garden Valley in Maricopa County. This plant is considered a wetland obligate species that is restricted to stream banks in canyons at elevations ranging from 3,500 ft (1,067 m) to 5,500 ft (1,676 m) (AGFD 1999a). Within the Nogales RD, this plant occurs in the Sycamore Canyon and Peña Blanca Canyon areas (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Population trends for Alamos deer vetch are unknown (AGFD 199a). The proposed transmission line may cross potential Alamos deer vetch habitat; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Furthermore, viable populations occur outside of the project area, including the Gooding RNA. There may be an impact to individual plants during development of the line; however, disturbance will be limited to a few individuals and is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Arid throne fleabane (*Erigeron arisolis*)

Arid throne fleabane is an annual to short-lived perennial forb that occurs in Arizona, southwestern New Mexico and Sonora, Mexico. Within Arizona, this plant is found in Apache, Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties. This species is typically found on moist rocky soils in grasslands, grassy openings within oak woodlands, and roadsides at elevations between 4,200 ft (1,280 m) and 5,500 ft (1,676 m) (AGFD 2000a). On the CNF Nogales RD, it has been documented from Box Canyon and Ruby Roads (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Arid throne fleabane favors moist areas in grasslands and grassy openings in oak woodlands, areas also favored by livestock for grazing (AGFD 2000a). The proposed transmission line parallels Ruby Road, a known location for this species. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual arid throne fleabane, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Arizona giant sedge (*Carex ultra*)

Arizona giant sedge is the largest sedge found in Arizona. Its range includes southeast Arizona, extreme southwest New Mexico (Hidalgo County, Indian Springs in the Pelocillos) and Mexico (Sonora and Coahila). Within Arizona, this sedge is found in Cochise, Graham, Pinal, Yavapai, Pima (Santa Rita Mountains and the Rincon Valley), and Santa Cruz counties (Santa Rita and Atascosa mountains). Typically only 1 patch per mountain has been found. Like other sedges, this plant is associated with moist soil

near perennial wet springs and streams and undulating rocky-gravelly terrain at elevations ranging from 2,040 ft (622 m) to 6,000 ft (1,829 m) (AGFD 2000b). Within the Nogales RD, Arizona giant sedge is found in Sycamore Canyon and Mule Ridge in the Atascosa Mountains, and at Deering Spring and Big Casa Blanca Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Small populations of this sedge are vulnerable to local disturbance of aquatic or riparian habitat (AGFD 2000b). The proposed transmission line may cross potential Arizona giant sedge habitat; however, no construction will occur in perennial aquatic habitats and construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. There may be an impact to individual plants during development of the line; however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Bartram's stonecrop (*Graptopetalum bartramii*)

Bartram's stonecrop is a small succulent perennial found in southern Arizona and Chihuahua, Mexico (one record). In Arizona, this plant occurs in Santa Cruz County within the Patagonia, Santa Rita, and Tumacacori Mountains, in Pima County within the Baboquivari, Dragoon, and Rincon mountains, and in Cochise County within the Chiricahua Mountains. Habitat for Bartram's stonecrop consists of cracks in rocky outcrops within shrub live oak-grassland communities located on the sides of rugged canyons. This plant is usually found in heavy litter cover and shade where moisture drips from rocks at elevations ranging from 3,900 ft (1,189 m) to 6,700 ft (2,042 m) (AGFD 1997a). Bartram's stonecrop plants are found on the west side of the Nogales RD in Tres Amigos Gulch; Sycamore, Peña Blanca, Alamo, and Peñasco canyons; in the vicinity of Montana Peak and Peña Blanca Lake (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Bartram's stonecrop populations are typically small and isolated. Illegal collection of the plant is the main management issue at this time. Other factors that may affect populations include mining and mineral exploration, habitat alteration due to livestock grazing, trampling by cattle and recreationists, and road construction and maintenance. The proposed transmission line crosses over known Bartram's stonecrop populations within the Nogales RD. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual Bartram's stonecrop, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to Bartram's stonecrop are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Beardless chinch weed (*Pectis imberbis*)

Beardless chinch weed is a perennial herb that is found in southern Arizona, western Chihuahua and eastern Sonora, Mexico. Within Arizona, this plant can be found in Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties (within Santa Cruz County it is found along Ruby Road in the Atascosa Mountains and in the Red Rock area of Canelo Hills). Habitat for this species consists of open areas in grassland and oak-grassland

communities. Beardless chinch weed has an extremely broad habitat range and can be found at elevations from 4,000 ft (1,219 m) to 5,000 ft (1,524 m) (AGFD 1998a).

Populations of beardless chinch weed may be susceptible to impacts from grazing and road maintenance activities but the species is adapted to disturbances and grows along road cuts (AGFD 1998a). The proposed transmission line crosses over known beardless chinch weed populations within the Nogales RD. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual beardless chinch weed, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to beardless chinch weed are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Catalina beardtongue (Penstemon discolor)

Catalina beardtongue is a perennial herbaceous sub-shrub found in southern Arizona. This shrub is found in Cochise, Graham, Pinal, Pima (within the Santa Catalina Mountains), and Santa Cruz counties (within the Atascosa and Tumacacori mountains). Habitat for Catalina beardtongue consists of bare rock outcrops, barren soil outcrops, and bedrock openings in chapparal or pine-oak woodlands at elevations ranging from 4,120 ft (1,256 m) to 7,600 ft (2,316) (AGFD 1999b). On the Nogales RD, this shrub occurs in the upper end of Peck Canyon, Corral Nuevo, and the adjacent Bartalo Mountain (Cedar Canyon), typically on whitish volcanic ash (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Rock climbers threaten some populations of this plant but few other threats exist (AGFD 1999b). The proposed transmission line crosses over known Catalina beardtongue populations within the Nogales RD. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual Catalina beardtongue, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to Catalina beardtongue are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Chiltepine (*Capsicum annuum* var.*glabriusculum*)

Chiltepine is an herbaceous to woody perennial shrub that is found in south Texas, southern New Mexico, southern Arizona, and south to tropical America. Within Arizona, a few populations of this plant are found in the Chiricahua, Tumacacori, Baboquivari, and Ajo Mountains. This plant occurs in protected, frost-free canyons in oak woodlands of slopes at less than 4,500 ft (1,372 m) elevation (typically found at elevations ranging from 3,600 ft [1,097 m] to 4,400 ft [1,341 m]). Chiltepine plants grow under nurse shrubs and usually are associated with rock ledges and outcrops. Within the Nogales RD, there are populations in the Tumacacori Mountains and Cobre Ridge area, and there are suspected populations on the west side of the RD (AGFD 1991a; T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

This plant is declining in some areas because of drought, overgrazing, and local over-collection of berries (AGFD 1991a). Placement of the transmission line may impact individual chiltepine plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to chiltepine are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Chihuahuan sedge (*Carex chihuahuensis*)

Chihuahuan sedge is a grass-like perennial plant that occurs in southeastern Arizona, New Mexico (Hidalgo County), and Mexico (Sonora and Chihuahua). Within Arizona, this plant ranges from Cochise, Graham, Gila, Pima (Santa Catalina, San Luis, and Rincon mountains), and Santa Cruz counties (Atascosa and Santa Rita mountains, and the Santa Cruz River). Chihuahuan sedge can be found in wet soils along streambeds and in shallower draws of pine-oak forests and riparian woodlands. It also is found in wet meadows, cienegas, marshy areas, and canyon bottoms from 1,100 ft (335 m) to 8,000 ft) (AGFD 1999c). Within the Nogales RD, this plant has been found near Arivaca Lake (on private land), Sycamore Canyon, and south of Bear Valley (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement on the population status of Chihuahuan sedge (AGFD 1999c). The proposed transmission line may cross potential Chihuahuan sedge habitat; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. There may be an impact to individual plants during development of the line; however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Chiricahua Mountain brookweed (Samolus vagans)

Chiricahua Mountain brookweed is a perennial herb found in southeastern Arizona, western Chihuahua, and eastern Sonora, Mexico. This plant apparently reaches its southern limit in southern Sonora, Mexico. Within Arizona, this species is found in the Huachuca Mountains of Cochise County, the Rincon, Santa Catalina, and Santa Rita mountains of Pima County, and the Canelo Hills and Pajarito mountains of Santa Cruz County. The Chiricahua Mountain brookweed is confined to areas with permanent water, such as springs, seeps, and in and along streams at elevations ranging from 1,219 to 2,195 m (4,000 – 7,200 ft) (AGFD 1999d). Within the Nogales RD, this plant occurs in Florida Canyon of the Santa Rita Mountains and in Sycamore Canyon of the Atascosa Mountains (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of Chiricahua Mountain brookweed (AGFD 1999d). Because no construction will occur within perennial aquatic habitats, the proposed action will have no effect on the population status of the Chiricahua Mountain brookweed.

Foetid passionflower (Passiflora foetida)

The foetid passionflower is a herbaceous vine found in southeastern Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, southern Arizona, and southward throughout Mexico, Central and South America, and the West Indies. Within Arizona, this species is found in the Baboquivari Mountains, Arivaca, and Las Guijas Mountains of Pima County and in California Gulch and the Bartlett Mountains of Santa Cruz County. In Arizona, this plant occurs on hillsides and canyons of the Lower Sonoran zone from 1,067 to 1,707 m (3,500 – 5,600 ft) in elevation (AGFD 2000c). Within the Nogales RD, foetid passionflowers have been recorded in the California Gulch and Holden Canyon areas (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of foetid passionflower (AGFD 2000c). Because the known populations of this plant occur outside of the proposed TEP transmission line corridor, there will be no effect on the population status of the foetid passionflower.

Gentry indigo bush (*Dalea tentaculoides*)

The Gentry indigo bush is an herbaceous perennial shrub found primarily in southern Arizona, but its range may extend into Mexico. Within Arizona, this shrub was historically found in the Sycamore Canyon drainage of the Atascosa Mountains, in the Pajarito Mountains of Santa Cruz County, and within the Baboquivari Mountains (1930s record) and Mendoza Canyon (1965 record) of Pima County. A population currently exists in the Gooding Natural Area approximately 1 mile from the proposed action. Gentry indigo bush is typically found along canyon bottoms on cobble terraces subject to occasional flooding and seems to prefer disturbance-prone environments at elevations ranging from 1,097 to 1,341 m (3,600 – 4,400 ft) (AGFD 1998b). Historic collection records indicate that this plant may grow on rocky hillsides. Within the Nogales RD, this plant has been recorded in Sycamore Canyon, in the vicinity of Peñasco Canyon, Kaiser Canyon, and north of Manzanita Mountain (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Potential threats to Gentry indigo bush populations are cattle grazing (Gori et al. 1991), recreational foot traffic, and flooding events that eliminate terraces occupied by this species (AGFD 1998b). No direct impacts from the proposed TEP transmission line on Gentry indigo bush are anticipated. Indirect effects from increased erosion, increased risk of wildfire, or the introduction of nonnative species may impact individual plants, however, because of the distance of the project and the conservation measures (invasive species control, fire prevention plan, erosion control), only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be subject to potential impacts. Furthermore, populations of this species occur well outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Large-flowered blue star (*Amsonia grandiflora*)

The large-flowered blue star is an herbaceous perennial that is found in northern Sonora and Durango, Mexico, and southern Arizona. Within Arizona, this plant is found in the Patagonia, Atascosa/Pajarito mountains of Santa Cruz and Pima counties. Habitat for this

species consists of canyon bottoms in oak woodlands typically dominated by Emory oak and Mexican blue oak; however, site-specific qualities are inconsistent. Large-flowered blue star plants have adapted to rock fall disturbance and are typically found at elevations ranging from 1,189 to 1,372 m (3,900 4,500 ft) (AGFD 1998c). Within the west side of the Nogales RD, this plant occurs at Peña Blanca and Arivaca Lakes, Sycamore Canyon, Chiminea Canyon, California Gulch, and near Ruby (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Populations of large-flowered blue star are rare, with only 15 to 20 populations within 2 mountain ranges as the total world distribution, but populations seem to be stable. This plant is highly susceptible to disturbance, and expanding development in the Nogales area (AGFD 1998c) may impact populations. The proposed TEP transmission line crosses near a known large-flowered blue star population in Peña Blanca Canyon, and some individual plants, comprising a small percentage of the total population, may be impacted. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Lumholtz nightshade (Solanum lumholtzianum)

The Lumholtz nightshade is an herbaceous annual that is found in southern Arizona and northern Mexico. Within Arizona, this plant is found in the Arivaca and San Luis Mountains of Pima County and the Patagonia, Atascosa, and Santa Rita Mountains of Santa Cruz County. Lumholtz nightshade plants are typically found in washes and low ground near wet depressions and along stream banks from 914 to 1,402 m (3,000 – 4,600 ft) elevation in desert grassland plant communities. This plant is also often found in disturbed, weedy areas (AGFD 2000d). Within the Nogales RD, this nightshade is found in the vicinity of Arivaca, Ruby, California Gulch, Nogales, Cobre Ridge, and Oro Blanco Wash (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of Lumholtz nightshade (AGFD 2000d). The proposed transmission line may cross potential habitat for this species; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Mock-pennyroyal (*Hedeoma dentatum*)

The mock-pennyroyal is an herbaceous perennial plant found in southeastern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico. Within Arizona, this plant is found in the Chiricahua, Huachuca, Mule, Whetstone, and Winchester mountains of Cochise County, the Pinaleno Mountains of Graham County, the Baboquivari, Rincon, and Santa Cruz mountains of Pima County, and the Atascosa, Mustang, Pajarito, and Santa Rita mountains of Santa Cruz County. Habitat for this plant consists of oak woodland, oak-pine forest, and pine forest. It can be found on open roadcuts, steep rocky outcrops, and gravelly slopes in

wooded canyons with open to full sunlight at elevations ranging from 1,173 to 2,500 m (3,850 – 8,200 ft) (AGFD 2000e).

Populations of mock-pennyroyal seem to be restricted to a relatively small geographic area, and populations are apparently small. Because habitat for this species is widespread, placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants. However because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Nodding blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium cernuum)

Nodding blue-eyed grass is a perennial forb with grass-like leaves that occurs in southeastern Arizona, west Texas, and Mexico. Within Pima and Santa Cruz counties, Arizona it occurs in the Pajarito, Santa Rita, Atascosa, and Rincon mountains as well as Sycamore Canyon. This species can be found in desert grassland and pine-oak woodlands from 1,006 to 2,438 m (3,300 – 8,000 ft) in elevation along streams in partial shade and in canyon bottoms. It grows in wet soil by seeps, pools, or springs in desert scrub. It has also been found on sandy stream banks. On the Nogales RD, this plant has been found at 1,189 m (3,900 ft) in Sycamore Canyon on the west side and at 1,402 m (4,600 ft) in Big Casa Blanca Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains (AGFD 1999e). The known location of this plant in Sycamore Canyon is within the Goodding RNA, located approximately 1.6 km (1 mi) west of the proposed ROW (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of nodding blue-eyed grass (AGFD 1999e). However, this species is not likely to be affected by the proposed placement of a transmission line within the Nogales RD. The proposed transmission line will not cross over or near known locations of this plant within the Goodding RNA. Therefore, placement of the TEP transmission line from Sahuarita to Nogales will have no impact on the nodding blue-eyed grass.

Santa Cruz beehive cactus (*Coryphantha recurvata*)

The Santa Cruz beehive cactus is a succulent perennial that occurs in southern Arizona and northern Sonora (about 20 km [12.4 mi] south of the international border), Mexico. Within Arizona, this species occurs in western Santa Cruz County from Nogales and the Tumacacori Mountains west to the Atascosa/Pajarito mountains. Santa Cruz beehive cacti are found in alluvial soils of valleys and foothills in grassland and oak woodland habitats from 1,219 to 1,829 m (4,000 – 6,000 ft). These plants are either on rocky hillsides with high grass cover or in rock crevices where runoff accumulates and provides a more favorable moisture relationship than the surrounding soils (AGFD 1998d). Within the Nogales RD known plant locations have increased since 1997 (813 plant clumps in 1997, 807 plant clumps in 1998, and 175 in 1999) (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Accessible populations of the Santa Cruz beehive cactus have declined due to collection, but the status of populations beyond accessible areas is unknown (AGFD 1998d). The proposed TEP transmission line crosses over several known Santa Cruz beehive cactus populations within the Nogales RD. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Santa Cruz star leaf (Choisya mollis)

The Santa Cruz star leaf is a perennial shrub that occurs in southern Arizona within the Atascosa, Pajarito, and Tumacacori mountains of Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz star leaf plants are found primarily within madrean evergreen woodland communities from 1,067 to 1,524 m (3,500 – 5,000 ft) in elevation. This plant is usually found in canyon bottoms and slopes, usually in the shade of oaks and other trees, or rock outcrops (AGFD 1999f). Santa Cruz star leaf plants have been found throughout the eastern portion of the Nogales RD (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Santa Cruz star leaf are typically found in rugged and remote mountainous areas where human activity is low and the likelihood of disturbance or removal of plants is minimal. However, the species population trend is unknown and existing populations are relatively rare, have a restricted range, and are only found within specific habitats (AGFD 1999f). The proposed TEP transmission line will cross areas with known populations of Santa Cruz star leaf. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Santa Cruz striped agave (*Agave parviflora* ssp. *parviflora*)

Santa Cruz striped agave is a small perennial succulent found in southern Arizona and northern Mexico. Within Arizona, this species is found near Arivaca in Pima County, and in the Las Guijas, Pajarito, Patagonia, Santa Rita, and Atascosa mountains of Santa Cruz County. Habitat for this agave consists of rocky or gravelly slopes of middle elevation mountains, in desert grassland or oak woodlands. This plant appears to prefer soils on rounded ridge-tops where grasses and shrubs are sparse and soil is bare or nearly so (AGFD 1998e). Santa Cruz striped agave have been found throughout the Nogales RD (primarily within the Atascosa, Pajarito, San Luis, and Las Guijas mountains), and in recent years the documented number of individual plants and number of locations has increased for this area (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Some populations of Santa Cruz striped agave have declined due to illegal collection and loss of habitat due to mining and road construction. Livestock grazing has caused degradation of habitat and browsing of flower stalks (AGFD 1998e). The proposed TEP transmission line crosses areas with known populations of Santa Cruz striped agave and there may be an impact to individual plants during development of the line. Placement of

the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area and transplanting of agave plants in project area will minimize impacts. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Seeman groundsel (Senecio carlomasonii)

The seeman groundsel is a perennial herb or subshrub found in southern Arizona and Mexico (Sonora, Chihuahua, Nayarit). Within Arizona, this plant is found in the Chiricahua and Huachuca mountains of Cochise County, the Baboquivari and Santa Rita mountains of Pima County, and the Santa Rita, Pajarito, and Peña Blanca mountains of Santa Cruz County (AGFD 2000f). Within the Nogales RD, seeman groundsel have been recorded in the Peña Blanca Lake and Sycamore Canyon areas (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of seeman groundsel (AGFD 2000f). A potential threat to seeman groundsel habitat may be trampling by hikers. Placement of the proposed transmission line may impact individual plants. However because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Sonoran noseburn (*Tragia laciniata*)

Sonoran noseburn is an herbaceous perennial that occurs in southern Arizona, Mexico (Sonora and Chihuahua), and possibly New Mexico. Within Arizona this plant can be found in Cochise County in the Huachuca Mountains and Canelo Hills, in Pima County in the Santa Rita Mountains, and in Santa Cruz County in the Atascosa Mountains (Sycamore Canyon), Patagonia Mountains, Pajarito Mountains, Canelo Hills (O'Donnell Canyon), and Santa Rita Mountains. Sonoran noseburn typically occur at elevations of 1,067 to 1,722 m (3,500 – 5,650 ft) along streams and canyon bottoms, on shaded hillsides within the upper parts of the Lower Sonoran and Upper Sonoran biotic communities, and open woodland areas (AGFD 2000g). This species has been found in canyons, along streams, and near roadways of the Nogales RD (AGFD 2000g).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of Sonoran noseburn (AGFD 2000g). Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Superb beardtongue (*Penstemon superbus*)

The superb beardtongue is a perennial herbaceous forb found in southeastern Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico (Chihuahua). Within southern Arizona, this species is found in Pima County in the Santa Catalina and Santa Rita mountains, and in Santa Cruz County within the Tumacacori Mountains. This plant is generally found in rocky canyons, dry hillsides, and along washes in sandy or gravelly soils at elevations between 945 and 1,676 m (3,100 – 5,500 ft) (AGFD 2000h). Within the Nogales RD, it has been found in Rock Corral Canyon and Box Canyon (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of superb beardtongue (AGFD 2000h). Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Supine bean (*Macroptilium supinum*)

The supine bean is a perennial herb that grows in colonies and produces underground fruits. The total range for this species includes Santa Cruz County, Arizona, south into Mexico, including the states of Sonoran and Nayarit. Within Arizona, this plant can be found in the Atascosa/Pajarito, San Luis, and Patagonia Mountains, and the southern portion of the Santa Cruz River drainage in Santa Cruz County (much of this area is within the Nogales RD). Supine bean are typically found along ridge tops and gentle slopes of rolling hills in semi-desert grassland or grassy openings in oak-juniper woodlands at elevations between 1,097 and 1,494 m (3,600 – 4,900 ft) (AGFD 1999g).

There are currently an estimated 12 populations of this species in Arizona. Populations range from small (around 20 individuals) to relatively large (around 3,500 individuals). A 43% decline in a monitored population was recorded from 1989 to 1993. This decline was apparently due to low reproductive output and poor recruitment, although the reasons for these are unknown (AGFD 1999g). Possible threats to this species include degradation of habitat due to livestock grazing, off-road vehicle activity, recreation (camping and hiking), Border Patrol activities, utility corridor and road construction/maintenance, and home building (AGFD 1999g).

Because of the recent decline in monitored populations and drought conditions noted in 2002, additional surveys will be conducted prior to construction in potential supine bean habitat. If populations of this species are found in the vicinity of construction, consultation with USFS biologists will be initiated to minimize impacts. Development of the proposed TEP transmission line is likely to have an impact on this species. However, once additional surveys are completed, impacts are likely to be limited to individual plants and not whole populations. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Sweet acacia (Acacia smallii)

The sweet acacia is a woody perennial spiny shrub or small tree found in Texas, Arizona, and California south to Argentina. Within Arizona, this species is found in the Baboquivari Mountains of Pima County and Sycamore Canyon and Atascosa Mountains of Santa Cruz County. Sweet acacia are typically found in the lower slopes of canyons of riparian areas in desert grassland communities from elevations ranging from 1,067 to 1,219 m (3,500 – 4,000 ft) (AGFD 1992).

Population trends for the sweet acacia are unknown (AGFD 1992). The proposed TEP transmission line may cross potential sweet acacia habitat; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Thurber hoary pea (Tephrosia thurberi)

The Thurber hoary pea is a perennial shrub that occurs in southern Arizona and Mexico (northern Sonora and southwestern Chihuahua). Within Arizona, this plant can be found in Cochise, Santa Cruz, and Pima counties. On the Nogales RD, Thurber hoary pea plants are found in the Santa Rita and Atascosa mountains. This species typically occurs on rocky slopes among oaks, pines, junipers, manzanitas, open hilltops, and grasslands at elevations between 1,067 and 2,134 m (3,500 – 7,000 ft) (AGFD 1999h).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of Thurber hoary pea (AGFD 1999h). Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Thurber's morning-glory (*Ipomoea thurberi*)

Thurber's morning-glory are perennial herbaceous vines that are found in southern Arizona and Mexico (Chihuahua and Sonora). Within Arizona, this plant is found in the Huachuca and Mule Mountains of Cochise County, the Santa Rita Mountains of Pima County, and in the vicinity of Nogales, the Canelo Hills, and the Patagonia and Atascosa/Pajarito mountains of Santa Cruz County. Habitat in Arizona typically consists of rocky hillsides and canyon slopes in madrean evergreen woodland and semi-desert grassland communities in elevations between 1,158 and 1,570 m (3,800 – 5,150 ft) (AGFD 2000i). On the Nogales RD, this morning glory has been found in the vicinity of Peña Blanca Lake, east of Peñasco Canyon, and Bear Valley (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of Thurber's morning-glory (AGFD 2000i). Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Virlet paspalum (*Paspalum virletti*)

The virlet paspalum is a perennial grass found in southeastern Arizona and Mexico (Sonora and San Luis Potosi). Within Arizona, this grass is found in the Huachuca Mountains of Cochise County, and in the Pajarito Mountains and Sycamore Canyon of Santa Cruz County. This grass is found in sandy soils of canyon bottoms in semi-desert grassland communities and grassy areas within madrean evergreen woodland communities at elevations ranging from 1,067 to 1,737 m (3,500 – 5,700 ft) (AGFD 1999i). In the Nogales RD, the only known location for this grass is in Sycamore Canyon growing in a sandy canyon bottom (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

This species is rare in Arizona, where it is known from only 2 widely separated populations. There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of virlet paspalum (AGFD 1999i). Known locations of this plant occur outside of the proposed TEP transmission line corridor; therefore, placement of the line is not likely to impact the virlet paspalum.

Weeping muhly (Sycamore Canyon muhly) (Muhlenbergia xerophila)

Weeping muhly is a perennial herbaceous grass found only in southern Arizona. Populations occur in the Santa Catalina, Rincon, Santa Rita, Tumacacori, and Baboquivari mountains of Pima County, and in Sycamore Canyon within the Pajarito Mountains of Santa Cruz County. Weeping muhly most often grow in crevices of cliffs, bedrock, and other rocks along canyon bottoms. This grass is also known from rocky canyon slopes in oak, pine-oak, and riparian woodlands at elevations between 1,073 and 1,829 m (3,520 – 6,000 ft) (AGFD 1999j).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of weeping mully (AGFD 1999j). Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Wiggins milkweed vine (*Metastelma mexicanum*)

Wiggins milkweed vine is a perennial herbaceous vine with a woody base found in southeastern Arizona to southern Sonora, Mexico. Within Arizona, this vine occurs around the Nogales and Ruby areas, Sycamore Canyon area, and Patagonia Mountains of Santa Cruz County, and Baboquivari, Coyote, and Catalina mountains of Pima County.

This vine is typically found on open slopes within open oak woodland on granite soils of juniper flats at elevations between 1,067 and 1,554 m (3,500 - 5,100 ft) (AGFD 2000j). Wiggins milkweed vine has been found in several locations within the Nogales RD (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Populations of Wiggins milkweed vine within Arizona appear to be stable. This vine depends on surrounding vegetation for microhabitat and will be affected by any disturbance to area habitat (AGFD 2000j). Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Wooly fleabane (Laennecia eriophylla)

Wooly fleabane is a perennial herb found in southeastern Arizona and northern Mexico (Sonora and Chihuahua). In Arizona, wooly fleabane occurs in the Atascosa Mountains, Pajarito Mountains, Santa Rita Mountains, Canelo Hills, and in the vicinity of Sonoita Creek in Santa Cruz County. This species is typically found in gravelly soil of rocky slopes and ridges with dense grass cover in semi-desert grassland, dry oak woodland, and pine-oak woodland communities at elevations between 1,292 and 1,722 m (4,240 – 5,650 ft) (AGFD 1999k). There are known locations of wooly fleabane in the Nogales RD (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Population sizes of this plant are usually very small, with typically no more than 40 plants found in any of the populations known from Arizona. Population numbers fluctuate with the amount and timing of summer rains from year to year. This species was probably more common before its habitat was altered by excessive grazing (AGFD 1999k). Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

3.2 INVERTEBRATES

Arizona metalmark (Calephelis rawsoni arizonensis)

The Arizona metalmark is a small, brown butterfly with bands of blue metallic markings on the upper and underside of the body. This butterfly occurs in Arizona, and from the Animas Mountains in southwestern New Mexico southward to Sonora, Mexico. The southern limits of its range are poorly defined to date. In Arizona, this species is known from as far north as Gila County then southward through Graham, Cochise, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties in most of the mountains therein. Arizona metalmark butterflies occur mostly above the desert floor in mountain foothills. Within these mountains, it is found in riparian canyons in oak woodland or more arid regions at elevations from 716 to 1,676 m (2,350 – 5,500 ft). Canyons with standing water for a major portion of the year

appear to contain populations of this species as long as *Agave* spp. are present for larvae development (AGFD 2001a). There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of Arizona metalmark (AGFD 2001a).

Placement of the transmission line may indirectly impact individuals of this species through habitat modification, however because the species is widely distributed across southern Arizona, only a small percentage of Arizona metalmarks may be impacted. Furthermore, transplanting of agave plants also will minimize impacts. Impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

3.3 BIRDS

American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum)

The American peregrine falcon subspecies is a medium-sized raptor that nests from central Alaska south to Baja California, Sonora, and the highlands of Central Mexico. Within Arizona, this raptor breeds wherever sufficient prey is available near cliffs. These raptors are rare or absent as breeders in the southwestern quarter of Arizona. Optimum habitat for peregrine falcons consists of steep, sheer cliffs overlooking woodlands, riparian areas, or other habitats supporting avian prey species in abundance. These raptors may also be found in less optimal habitat consisting of small broken cliffs in ponderosa pine forests or large sheer cliffs in very xeric areas. The presence of an open expanse is critical. American peregrine falcons can be found at elevations ranging from 122 to 2,743 m (400 – 9,000 ft) (Glinski 1998, AGFD 1998f). Peregrine falcon nests were found on Ramanote Peak and along Sycamore Canyon (CNF 2000). Both these nests are at least 1.6 km (1 mi) from the proposed ROW. In 2002, another nest was found on Castle Rock, which is within the MSO PAC and within 0.3 km (0.18 mi) of proposed structures. The seasonal restrictions in effect for MSO (SECTION 1.4) will prevent breeding season disturbance of peregrines on Castle Rock.

American peregrine falcons have been found in great numbers in Arizona as well as in areas that will have formerly been considered marginal habitat. This trend suggests that populations in Arizona may have reached levels saturating the optimal habitat available (AGFD 1998f). Placement of the proposed transmission line is not likely to disturb known nesting peregrine falcons. If new nest sites are encountered during construction, conservation measures will be developed in coordination with CNF biologists to prevent adverse effects. Development of the TEP line is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability of this species.

Five-stripped sparrow (Aimophila quinquestriata)

The five-stripped sparrow is found in western portions of northern Sinaloa and Sonora, Mexico and the southeastern most portions of Arizona. This sparrow is primarily found in Mexico, but its range reaches into southeastern Arizona. Here, it is rarely found during breeding season, and there are only a few winter records. Five-stripped sparrow habitat is highly specialized, consisting of tall, dense shrubs on rocky, semi-desert hillsides and canyon slopes (New Mexico Game and Fish Department and the Fish and Wildlife

Information Exchange 2000). Within the Nogales RD, this sparrow has been recorded within Sycamore Canyon (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Populations of five-stripped sparrow have declined because of habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation (New Mexico Game and Fish Department and the Fish and Wildlife Information Exchange 2000). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross Sycamore Canyon where these sparrows have been observed. This species is not likely to be affected by the proposed placement of a transmission line within the Nogales RD.

Northern gray hawk (Asturina nitida maxima)

The gray hawk is a medium-sized raptor with a gray back, black tail with 2 or 3 white bands, and a finely barred gray and white chest, abdomen, and thighs (Glinski 1998). The gray hawk prefers Sonoran riparian deciduous forest and woodland plant communities and can be found along the Santa Cruz and San Pedro rivers, Sonoita Creek, and Sopori Wash. This species also has been reported from the Hassayampa and Salt rivers. This hawk species is migratory and usually arrives in Arizona in mid-March and returns south during winter months (AGFD 2000k). Gray hawks prefer cottonwood, mesquite, and hackberry woodlands with a prey base of lizards, especially the whiptail lizard (*Cnemidophorus* spp.).

The current population trend for gray hawks is considered stable by the AGFD (2000k). Potential nesting habitat exists along small portions of the proposed TEP transmission line corridor along Sopori Wash. Individual gray hawks may be indirectly impacted by habitat modification from construction activity related to transmission line placement; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Furthermore, riparian plants within Sopori Wash will be mitigated to facilitate habitat recovery. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Western yellow-billed cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus occidentalis)

The western yellow-billed cuckoo is a long and slender bird with short, dark legs that nests from southern California through the northeastern United States, south through the United States to the Florida Keys, Central America and southern Baja California, Mexico. This species winters from South America to central Argentina and Uruguay. Within Arizona, western yellow-billed cuckoo are found in southern and central Arizona and the extreme northeast portion of the state. This species is typically found in streamside areas with cottonwood, willow groves, and larger mesquite bosques (AGFD 1998g). This species has been observed in Sopori Wash and Sycamore, Peck, and Peña Blanca canyons (AGFD 1998g; CNF 2000; P. Titus, T. Furgason, SWCA, pers. comm.16 October 2002).

Populations of western yellow-billed cuckoo have been reduced; a general decline is occurring in all areas with known populations (AGFD 1998g). This species is sensitive to habitat fragmentation and degradation of riparian woodlands due to agricultural and residential development (Hughes 1999). The proposed transmission line may cross

potential cuckoo habitat; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Placement of the transmission line may impact individuals of this species, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

3.4 REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Giant spotted whiptail (*Cnemidophorus burti strictogrammus*)

The giant spotted whiptail is a long, slender lizard found in southeastern Arizona, extreme southwest New Mexico, and northern Sonora, Mexico. Within southeastern Arizona, this lizard is found in Cochise County; the Santa Catalina, Santa Rita, Baboquívari, and Pajarito mountains and in the vicinity of Oracle in Pima County; and in Pinal County. Giant spotted whiptail lizards inhabit mountain canyons, arroyos, and mesas in arid and semi-arid regions, entering lowland deserts along stream courses. They are found in dense shrubby vegetation, often among rocks near permanent and intermittent streams at elevations ranging from near sea level to 1,372 m (4,500 ft). Open areas of bunch grass within these riparian habitats are also occupied (AGFD 2001b).

Giant spotted whiptail populations are thought to be stable and some populations are locally abundant even though this species is limited in distribution (AGFD 2001b). Because the known populations occur outside the project area, the proposed transmission line will have no significant effect on the population status of the giant spotted whiptail.

Lowland leopard frog (*Rana yavapaiensis*)

The lowland leopard frog is found in low elevations in the drainage of the lower Colorado River and its tributaries in Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico, northern Sonora and extreme northeast Baja California, Mexico (probably extirpated from California and Nevada). Within Arizona, this frog has been found in the Virginia River drainage in the extreme northwestern part of the state, in the Colorado River near Yuma, and west, central, and southeast Arizona south of the Mogollon Rim. This frog frequents desert, grassland, oak, and oak-pine woodland in permanent pools of foothill streams, rivers, and permanent stock tanks. They typically stay close to water at elevations ranging from 244 to 1,676 m (800 – 5,500 ft) (AGFD 1997b). Within the Nogales RD, this frog has been recorded in Pesquiera and Alamo canyons, California Gulch, Adobe, Temporal Gulch, Big Casa Blanca, Box Canyon, and Gardner Canyon (T. Newman, CNF, pers. comm., 20 August 2002).

Lowland leopard frog populations are considered stable in central Arizona but declining in southeast Arizona, and populations have been extirpated from southwestern Arizona. Potential threats to this species are manipulation to major watercourses, water pollution, introduced species (fish, bullfrogs, and crayfish), heavy grazing, and habitat fragmentation (AGFD 1997b). Because no construction will occur within perennial aquatic habitats and known populations occur outside project area, the proposed

transmission line will have no significant effect on the population status of the lowland leopard frog.

Mexican garter snake (*Thamnophis eques megalops*)

The Mexican garter snake ranges from southeastern Arizona and extreme southwestern New Mexico, southward into the highlands of western and southern Mexico, to Oaxaca. Within Arizona, this snake occurs in the southeast corner of the state from the Santa Cruz Valley east and generally south of the Gila River. Valid records (post 1980) have recorded this snake in the San Rafael and Sonoita grasslands area and from Arivaca. Mexican garter snakes are most abundant in densely vegetated desert grassland habitat surrounding cienegas, cienega-streams, stock tanks, and in or near water along streams in valley floors and generally open areas, but not in steep mountain canyon stream habitat. This snake is generally found at elevations ranging from 914 to 1,524 m (3,000 – 5,000 ft) but may reach elevations of 2,591 m (8,500 ft) (AGFD 2001c).

Populations of Mexican garter snakes are decreasing, with extirpations at several localities since 1950 as habitat has changed and introduced predators have invaded. Management concerns for this species include predation by introduced bullfrogs and predatory fishes, urbanization and lowered water tables, and habitat destruction, including that due to overgrazing (AGFD 2001c). Because no construction will occur within perennial aquatic habitats and construction within riparian habitats will be minimized, the proposed transmission line will have no significant effect on the population status of the Mexican garter snake.

Western barking frog (*Eleutherodactylus augusti cactorum*)

The western barking frog is a secretive terrestrial frog found in extreme southern Arizona, southeast New Mexico, and central Texas south to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. In Arizona, this frog historically occurred in Pima and Santa Cruz counties within the Santa Rita and Pajarito mountains. Habitat consists of rocky hillsides of canyons in woodland vegetation at elevations between 1,158 and 2,134 m (3,800 – 7,000 ft). Permanent water is not a necessary component of western barking frog habitat. There are very few records of this species in Arizona, and none have been recorded within the Nogales RD (AGFD 1995b).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of western barking frogs (AGFD 1995b). Because known populations occur outside the project area, the proposed transmission line will have no significant effect on the population status of the western barking frog and is not likely to result in a trend toward listing or loss of viability.

3.5 MAMMALS

Cave myotis (Myotis velifer)

The cave myotis is a large bat found in the southwestern half of Arizona and the immediate adjacent parts of California, Nevada, New Mexico, and the northern third of Sonora, Mexico. Within Arizona, this bat is found south of the Mogollon Plateau from

Lake Mohave, Burro Creek, Montezuma Well, San Carlos Apache Reservation, and the Chiricahua Mountains south to Mexico. Cave myotis have not been recorded in the extreme southwestern part of the state and are found in small numbers in southeastern Arizona in the winter. This bat typically prefers desertscrub habitats of creosote, brittlebush, paloverde, and cacti but they sometimes can be found up in pine-oak communities. Cave myotis roost in caves, tunnels, mineshafts, under bridges, and sometimes buildings within a few kilometers of a water source (AGFD 1997c).

Cave myotis colonies are vulnerable at the roost sites, especially maternity roosts, because the congregate in large numbers (AGFD 1997c). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross near known roost sites. Potential foraging habitat may be disturbed during development of the transmission line; however, these disturbances will be isolated and widely distributed. Furthermore, populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts will not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability of the cave myotis.

Southern pocket gopher (*Thomomys umbrinus intermedius*)

The southern pocket gopher is a small gopher found in extreme southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, south into Mexico. Within Arizona, this gopher is found primarily in the southern most portion of the state in the oak belt of the Santa Rita, Patagonia, Atascosa, Pajarito, and Huachuca mountains. Southern pocket gophers have been found at Peña Blanca Spring in gravelly soil along a broad wash. Elsewhere, this species is generally found on rocky slopes within open oak woodlands in the lower parts of mountain ranges from 1,372 to 2,743 m (4,500 – 9,000 ft) in elevation. There has been only 1 record for the southern pocket gopher within the Nogales RD, specifically at Peña Blanca Canyon in the Atascosa/Pajarito mountains. However, it is suspected that this species has a much wider range (AGFD 1998h).

There is no information on the potential effects of land use activities, such as utility placement, on the population status of southern pocket gopher (AGFD 1998h). Placement of the transmission line may impact individuals of this species, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

4.0 BLM SENSITIVE SPECIES

Criteria for BLM Sensitive species include those that are:

- 1. Under status review by the USFWS, or
- 2. Whose numbers are declining so rapidly that Federal listing may become necessary, or
- 3. With typically small and widely dispersed populations,
- 4. Those inhabiting ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats.

The potential impacts to BLM Sensitive species were determined based on the habitat conditions within the BLM lands crossed by the proposed action, the life history of the species, and the proposed construction methods. Only those species that have a potential of occurring on or near the BLM parcel were evaluated. The 13 BLM Sensitive species evaluated were identified in the BLM Sensitive species list for Arizona (Instruction Memorandum No. AZ-2000-018) dated 21 April 2000 and are listed in Table 5.

TABLE 5. SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SENSITIVE SPECIES.		
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Balloonvine Cardiospermum corindum False grama Cathestecum erectum brevifolium	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability. May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Tumamoc globeberry Tumamoca macdougalii	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Loggerhead shrike Lanius ludovicianus	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona.
Rufous-winged sparrow Aimophila carpalis	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.

TABLE 5 (CONTINUED).	SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON I	BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SENSITIVE SPECIES.
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Western burrowing owl Athene curnicularia hypugea	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southwestern U.S.
Texas horned lizard Phrynosoma cornutum	No Impacts.	Known populations occur outside project area.
Big free-tailed bat Nyctinomops macrotis	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 No known roosts within project area. Only small percentage of foraging habitat within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona.
California leaf-nosed bat Macrotus californicus	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 No known roosts within project area. Only small percentage of foraging habitat within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona.
Fringed myotis Myotis thysandodes	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 No known roosts within project area. Only small percentage of foraging habitat within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona.
Pocketed free-tailed bat Nyctinomops femorosaccus	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 No known roosts within project area. Only small percentage of foraging habitat within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona.
Spotted bat Euderma maculatum	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 No known roosts within project area. Only small percentage of foraging habitat within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona.
Underwood's mastiff bat Eumops underwoodi	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 No known roosts within project area. Only small percentage of foraging habitat within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona.

4.1 PLANTS

Balloonvine (Cardiospermum corindum)

This perennial vine is widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions and is known from the Coyote Mountains in Pima County (Kearny and Peebles 1960). Because potential habitat for this species is widespread, placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants. However because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

False grama (*Cathestecum erectum* (*brevifolium*))

False grama is a perennial, drought-tolerant grass found on dry hills and plains of Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Tumamoc globeberry (Tumamoca macdougalii)

This perennial vine occurs in shade of nurse plants along sandy washes below ~914 m (3,000 ft) in elevation. The proposed transmission line may cross potential habitat for this species; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual plants, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside the project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

4.2 BIRDS

Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

The loggerhead shrike occurs in open country with scattered trees and shrubs, savanna, desertscrub and occasionally open woodland (AGFD 2002). In Arizona, this species usually summers throughout open parts of the state below the Transition Zone and is also periodically found along the Mexican border west of Baboquívari Mountains (Phillips et al. 1983). Because habitat for this species is widely distributed, placement of the transmission line may impact this species. However because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Rufous-winged sparrow (Aimophila carpalis)

The rufous-winged sparrow is classified as a migratory bird and is a resident of eastern Pima County, including Avra Valley, and was once thought to be extirpated in Arizona due to overgrazing but was rediscovered in the Tucson Area in 1936. Rufous-winged sparrows generally use habitats characterized by scattered low shrubs and trees, which provide cover and foraging areas during mid-summer days. Many of these areas contain significant grassland components. Threats to the species include urban development, overgrazing, and exotic species, all of which result in losses of grassland communities utilized by this species (Pima County 2001). Because habitat for this species is widely distributed, placement of the transmission line may impact this species. However because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside the project area. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Western burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia hypugea)

The Western burrowing owl inhabits heavily grazed tracts of mixed-grass prairie, particularly where there are burrows created by large rodents, such as prairie dogs and Richardson ground squirrels. Distribution extends from southern Canada through the western United States to South America. Arizona is 1 of 3 states that provide important wintering areas for this species (USGS 2003). Because habitat for this species is widely distributed, placement of the transmission line may impact this species. However because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur throughout the southwestern United States. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

4.3 REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)

The Texas horned lizard occurs from Kansas to extreme southeastern Arizona and lives mainly in sandy areas of deserts, grasslands, prairies, and scrublands (Bartlett and Bartlett 1999) where it often inhabits abandoned animal burrows (Bockstanz 1998). Because known populations occur outside of the project area, the proposed transmission line will have no significant effect on the population status of this species.

4.4 MAMMALS

Big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*)

Distribution of the big free-tailed bat occurs from the southwestern United States southward through the Caribbean, Central America, and into the northern part of South America. Northern populations are known to migrate to southern Arizona and Mexico in the fall, yet this species is widely scattered throughout Arizona during the spring and summer too. In Arizona, this bat has been found in pinyon-juniper, Douglas-fir, and Sonoran desertscrub habitats, but it is believed that these locations are foraging sites. Preferred roosting sites include rock crevices and fissures of mountain cliffs in rugged,

rocky areas of desertscrub habitat (AGFD 1993, Harvey et al. 1999). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross near known roost sites, but potential foraging habitat may be disturbed during development of the transmission line; however, these disturbances will be isolated and widely distributed. Furthermore, populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts will not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability of the big free-tailed bat.

California leaf-nosed bat (Macrotus californicus)

Distribution of the California leaf-nosed bat in the United States spans southern California, southern Nevada, and southwestern Arizona and extends southward into Mexico, to the southern tip of Baja California, northern Sinaloa, and southwestern Chihuahua. This bat lives predominantly in Sonoran and Mohave desertscrub habitats, but is occasionally found in the Chihuahuan and Great Basin deserts. Daytime roosting sites are usually mines and caves, and nighttime roosts include open buildings, cellars, bridges, porches, and mines. These bats do not hibernate or migrate; therefore, they tend to live in the same area year after year and remain active year-round (AGFD 1993, 2001d; Harvey et al. 1999). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross near known roost sites, but potential foraging habitat may be disturbed during development of the transmission line; however, these disturbances will be isolated and widely distributed. Furthermore, populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts will not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability of the California leaf-nosed bat.

Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysandodes*)

Distribution of the fringed myotis ranges from southern British Columbia, Canada southward throughout the western United States, and down to southern Mexico. It occurs in a variety of habitats – from desertscrub to oak and pinyon woodlands to spruce-fir forests. Roosting sites include caves, mines, and buildings. These bats tend to roost in tight clusters and may change locations periodically in response to thermoregulatory needs (AGFD 1993, Harvey et al. 1999). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross near known roost sites, but potential foraging habitat may be disturbed during development of the transmission line; however, these disturbances will be isolated and widely distributed. Furthermore, populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts will not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability of the fringed myotis.

Pocketed free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*)

The pocketed free-tailed bat ranges from the southwestern United States (including southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico, and the Trans-Pecos region of Texas), south into Mexico through Baja, Sonora, Durango, and Jalisco to, at least, Michoacan. This bat can be found in the arid lowlands of the desert Southwest, where it roosts in crevices and caves of rugged cliffs, slopes, and rock outcrops (AGFD 1993, Harvey et al. 1999). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross near known roost sites. Potential foraging habitat may be disturbed during development of the transmission line; however, these disturbances will be isolated and widely distributed and will not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability of this species.

Spotted bat (*Euderma maculatum*)

Distribution of the spotted bat ranges throughout centralwestern North America, from southcentral British Columbia down to southern Mexico. In Arizona, its habitat ranges from low desert areas in the Southwest to high desert and riparian habitats in the northwestern part of the state. This bat has also been documented in conifer forests in northern Arizona. Roosting sites are often situated in rock crevices on high cliffs (AGFD 1993, Harvey et al. 1999). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross near known roost sites, but potential foraging habitat may be disturbed during development of the transmission line; however, these disturbances will be isolated and widely distributed. Furthermore, populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts will not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability of the spotted bat.

Underwood's mastiff bat (*Eumops underwoodi*)

The range of Underwood's mastiff bat is limited, from south-central Arizona, into the arid lowlands of Sonoran and western Mexico, and into Honduras. It is believed to be a year-round resident of Arizona, ranging from the Baboquívari Mountains down to Organpipe National Monument. This bat prefers Sonoran desertscrub and mesquite/grassland plant communities. Roosting tends to occur in crevices along steep cliffs and sometimes in the cracks of buildings (AGFD 1993). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross near known roost sites, but potential foraging habitat may be disturbed during development of the transmission line; however, these disturbances will be isolated and widely distributed. Furthermore, populations of this species occur throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts will not likely result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability of this species.

5.0 AGFD WILDLIFE OF SPECIAL CONCERN

AGFD was consulted in regards to state listed special status species and habitats that may be affected by the proposed action. Several state listed special status species and overall wildlife habitat may be affected by the proposed action. The AGFD mission is to conserve, enhance, and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs. Continued consultation and input from AGFD will ensure that impacts of the proposed action are minimized and mitigation efforts are successful.

Listed in Table 6 are state special status species that may be found in the vicinity of the proposed action, based on AGFD's Heritage Data Management System (HDMS) (1 July 2002). Effects of the proposed action on the majority of these species will be avoided or minimized through mitigation efforts stipulated for federally listed species. However, additional mitigation is recommend for the Sonoran Desert tortoise as 5 individuals were located near the Tinaja Hills area during field surveys of the proposed ROW (HEG 2002, unpublished data).

TABLE 6. SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON WILDLIFE OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN ARIZONA.		
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Black-bellied whistling duck Dendrocyna autumnalis	No Impacts.	No construction in perennial aquatic habitats.
Crested caracara Caracara cheriway_	No Impacts.	Known populations occur outside project area.
Desert tortoise - Sonoran population Gopherus agassizii	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total potential habitat within project area may be impacted. Pre-construction surveys will minimize impacts to species.
Elegant trogon Trogon elegans	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona.
Great Plains narrow- mouthed toad Gastrophryne olivacea	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.
Mexican long-tongued bat Choeronycteris mexicana	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Only small percentage of total potential habitat within project area may be impacted. Mitigation plantings of agaves will reduce impacts.

TABLE 6 (CONTINUED). SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON WILDLIFE OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN ARIZONA.		
COMMON NAME Scientific Name	EFFECTS DETERMINATION	JUSTIFICATION
Mexican vine snake Oxibelis aeneus	No Impacts.	Known occurrences are outside project area.
Osprey Pandion haliaetus	No Impacts	No construction in perennial aquatic habitats.
Rose-throated becard Pachyramphus aglaiae	No Impacts.	Known occurrences are outside project area.
Tarahumara frog Rana tarahumarae	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability	 Currently does not exist in project area but may be reintroduced into Sycamore Canyon. Conservation measures for federally listed species in Sycamore Canyon will prevent significant impacts.
Thick-billed kingbird Tyrannus crassirostris	No Impacts	No potential habitat within project area.
Tropical Kingbird Tyrannus melancholicus	May impact individuals of this species, but is not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.	 Minimal impacts to riparian habitat. Only small percentage of total population within project area may be impacted. Other viable populations occur outside of project area.

Black-bellied whistling duck (*Dendrocyna autumnalis*)

The black-bellied whistling duck is "goose-like" with a long neck and long pink legs. This species has a cinnamon or chestnut breast and back with a black belly and bright coral-red bill. The total range for this species is from the Gulf coast and lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas and central Arizona south through Mexico, Central America to southern Brazil. In Arizona, the range for the black-bellied whistling duck is southeastern and central Arizona. Black-bellied whistling ducks are commonly seen in the Santa Cruz Valley, particularly in ponds near and around Nogales. The habitat for this species consists of the banks of rivers, lakes, ponds, riparian areas, and stock tanks (Brown 1985).

Because of habitat loss and apparent population declines from historic levels, the black-bellied whistling duck has been placed on the AGFD Threatened Native Wildlife of Arizona List as a candidate species. This species appears to be increasing in Arizona in urban settings at man-made ponds and at sewage treatment plants. It also appears to be stable at some private ranch ponds, which tend to be isolated from hunting pressure (Corman 1994).

Because no construction will occur in perennial aquatic habitats, the proposed transmission line will have no effect on the population status of the black-bellied whistling duck.

Crested caracara (Caracara cheriway)

The crested caracara is a medium sized raptor with bold black and white plumage and a bright yellow-orange face and legs. The crested caracara ranges from southern Arizona and northern Mexico to Tierra del Fuego. In the United States, it occurs only along the southern border in Texas and Arizona, and in Florida, where there is an isolated population in the south-central peninsula. In Arizona, their range extends up from San Miguel in the Baboquivari Valley north to Quijotoa, Sells, and Coyote Pass. This raptor occurs regularly on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation. Small groups of crested caracara are seen in Sasabe and south of the Mexican border near Sonoyta, Sonora. This raptor is found in open habitats, typically grassland, prairie, pastures, or desert with scattered taller trees, shrubs, or cacti. The crested caracara is found in areas characterized by low-profile ground vegetation and scattered tall vegetation. Specifically in Arizona, vegetation consists of saguaro, mesquite, paloverde, cholla and acacia (Morrison 1996).

Arizona populations of crested caracara on the Tohono O'odham Reservation are likely stable because few threats exist. Reports of individual, and in some cases groups, of this raptor outside of the reservation indicate that its range within Arizona is probably as extensive as it was historically. No apparent threat currently exits to Arizona populations; however, the AGFD has listed the crested caracara as a threatened native wildlife. This species is considered vulnerable if habitat conditions worsen (Morrison 1996).

Habitat surveys did not detect the presence of any bird of prey nests along the corridor. Furthermore, no know populations of this species occur within the project area. Therefore, the proposed action will have no effect on the population status of the crested caracara.

Desert tortoise (Sonoran) (Gopherus agassizii)

The Sonoran Desert tortoise ranges from northern Sinaloa, Mexico to southern Nevada and southwestern Utah, and from southcentral California east to southeastern Arizona. The desert tortoise is divided into 2 populations for purposes of the Endangered Species Act. The threatened Mojave population occurs north and west of the Colorado River and the unlisted Sonoran population occurs south and east of the Colorado River. Within Arizona, the Sonoran Desert tortoise is found south and east of the Colorado River from Mojave County to the south, beyond the International Boundary and many scattered locations in between. The Sonoran population of the desert tortoise occurs primarily on rocky slopes and bajadas of Mojave and Sonoran desertscrub at elevations ranging from 152 to 1,615 m (500 – 5,300 ft). Burrows and shelter sites are generally below rocks and boulders, in rock crevices, under vegetation, and also in caliche caves of incised wash banks (AGFD 2001e).

Several threats to tortoise populations in the Sonoran Desert have been identified, including habitat fragmentation, habitat loss and degradation from urban and agricultural development and roads, wildfires associated with invasion of non-native grasses and forbs, illegal collection, and genetic contamination of wild populations by escaped or

released captives. Although current evidence suggests that Arizona populations are stable there are substantial gaps in available data (Arizona Interagency Desert Tortoise Team 1996).

During ground surveys of the proposed transmission line corridor, 5 desert tortoise were found (HEG, unpublished data). Per recommendations of Spencer and Humphrey (1999) for any ground disturbing projects, surveys should be conducted a minimum of 48 hours prior to grading and again just prior (as it is occurring) to vegetation clearing (Desert Tortoise Council 1999). While the proposed action may have a minimal effect on the potential habitat of this species, pre-construction surveys will minimize impacts to individual tortoise and is therefore not likely to result in a trend toward listing or loss of viability.

Elegant trogon (*Trogon elegans*)

The elegant trogon is a medium sized bird with a round head, large eyes, a white band on an iridescent green breast, black face and throat, red belly and undertail coverts. The total range for this bird is from southern Arizona and New Mexico south through Mexico to southern Nicaragua to northwestern Costa Rica. In Arizona, the elegant trogon is found in sky island mountains, most commonly the Atascosa, Chiricahua, Huachuca, and Santa Rita mountains. Elegant trogons are found in riparian areas consisting of sycamore, cottonwood, and oak, and also in coniferous woodlands at elevations ranging from 1,036 to 2,073 m (3,400 – 6,800 ft) (AGFD 2001f).

Population trends for the elegant trogon are not well known. No evidence indicates population declines in any of the core canyons occupied over the past few decades. Threats to this species include degradation and loss of native riparian habitat through stream diversion, groundwater withdrawal, erosion, and overgrazing (AGFD 2001f).

The proposed transmission line may cross potential habitat for this species; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual trogons, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur in isolated mountain ranges throughout southern Arizona. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Great Plains narrow-mouthed toad (*Gastrophryne olivacea*)

The Great Plains narrow-mouthed toad is a small, stout toad with stubby limbs, a small pointed head with a fold of skin on the back of the head. The total range for this species is from southeastern Nebraska and Missouri south through Texas to western Mexico. Within Arizona, the Great Plains narrow-mouthed toad is found in the vicinity of Santa Cruz County, Pima County, to near Casa Grande, Arizona in Pinal County. Habitat for this species in Arizona consists of mesquite semi-desert grassland communities to oak woodland communities near riparian areas at elevations ranging from sea level to around 1,250 m (4,100 ft) (AGFD 1995c).

Population trends for the Great Plains narrow-mouthed toad are currently unknown. Populations in Arizona are at the extreme northwestern edge of the species range and distribution is limited throughout its range (AGFD 1995c). The proposed transmission line may cross potential habitat for this species; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Placement of the transmission line may impact individuals of this species, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside the project area. Therefore, impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Mexican long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*)

The Mexican long-tongued bat has a long, slender nose with a leaf-like structure on the base of the nose. The total range for this species is from southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and California south through Central America to Venezuela. In Arizona, the Mexican long-tongued bat is found from the Chiricahua Mountains extending as far north as the Santa Catalina Mountains and west to the Baboquivari Mountains. Habitat for this bat is typically within canyons of mixed oak-conifer forests in mountains at elevations ranging from 1,082 to 2,231 m (3,550 – 7,320 ft) (AGFD 1994). This species do not congregate in sizeable maternity or bachelor colonies like *Leptonycteris* bats do (Hoffmeister 1986). They feed on nectar and pollen, especially from paniculate agaves (AGFD 1994).

Populations of Mexican long-tongued bats in Arizona appear to be highly variable (AGFD 1994) and there is no evidence of a long-term decline or any clear trend. The limitation of riparian zones and the distribution of food plants may limit populations of this species in Arizona and loss of riparian vegetation may be a greater threat to this species than human disturbance at particular roost sites (Pima County 2001). The proposed TEP transmission line will not cross near known roost sites, but potential foraging habitat may be disturbed during construction; however, these disturbances will be isolated and will impact only a small percentage of potential habitat. Furthermore, transplanting of agave plants also will minimize impacts. Impacts to this species are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Mexican vine snake (Oxibelis aeneus)

The Mexican vine snake has an elongated head, pointed snout, and is thin bodied with an ash gray to yellow-brown and tan coloring. The total range for this species is from extreme southern Arizona south to Brazil. In Arizona, this species occurs in the Tumacacori, Pajarito, and Patagonia mountains in Santa Cruz County. Habitat for the Mexican vine snake consists of brush-covered hillsides and riparian areas with sycamore, oak, walnut and wild grape trees at elevations ranging from 914 to 1,768 m (3,000 – 5,800 ft) (AGFD 1991b).

Population trends for the Mexican vine snake are currently unknown. Populations in Arizona are at the extreme northern edge of the species range and distribution is limited,

with occurrences known from Sycamore Canyon (AGFD 1991b). A potential threat is the high interest by collectors for this species (AGFD 1991b). Because known occurrences of this species are outside the project area, the proposed action will have no effect on the population status of the Mexican vine snake.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

This raptor is dark brown on its back and white on the underparts with a prominent dark eye stripe. The total range for the osprey is from Alaska to Newfoundland, along the Atlantic and Pacific coastlines, and in the Rocky Mountains south through central and South America. Within Arizona, the osprey occurs primarily in the White Mountains, along the Mogollon Rim, and along the Salt and Verde rivers. In southeastern Arizona, this raptor is an uncommon spring and fall transient, usually seen at ponds and reservoirs. Nesting habitat of the osprey consists of coniferous trees along rivers and lakes at elevations ranging from 1,829 to 2,377 m (6,000 – 7,800 ft) (AGFD 1997d).

Osprey population trends in Arizona are not well known. Only about 20 nest sites are known in the southwest, all within Arizona. This raptor is threatened by loss of nesting habitat and foraging perch sites. It is also threatened by recreational use of nesting habitat, shooting, and pesticide poisoning on wintering grounds (AGFD 1997d).

Because no construction will occur in perennial aquatic habitats, the proposed action will have no effect on the population status of the osprey.

Rose-throated becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*)

The rose-throated becard is a big-headed, thick billed bird that breeds in southeast Arizona, southern Texas (rare visitor along the Rio Grande), south through Mexico to Costa Rica. This species winters from northern Mexico south through to its breeding range. Within Arizona, rose-throated becards have been found breeding along Sonoita and Arivaca creeks, Sycamore Canyon (Atascosa Mountains), and Patagonia. Historically, this species nested in Guadalupe Canyon (east of Douglas) and near Tucson. Rose-throated becards typically inhabit marshes of Sonoran desertscrub communities of open to dense vegetation of shrubs, low trees, and succulents dominated by paloverde, prickly pear, and saguaro. This species also is found in the desert riparian deciduous woodland communities of marsh-woodlands, especially of cottonwoods, that occur where desert streams provide sufficient moisture for a narrow band of deciduous trees and shrubs along the margins. In Arizona, the rose-throated becard is found at elevations ranging from 1,082 to 1,228 m (3,550 – 4,030 ft) (AGFD 2001g).

Population trends for the rose-throated becard are currently unknown. Potential threats to this species include disturbance from bird watchers and degradation and loss of native riparian habitat through overgrazing, urban development, and groundwater depletion (AGFD 2001g). Because known occurrences of this species are outside the project area, the proposed action will have no effect on the population status of the rose-throated becard.

Tarahumar frog (*Rana tarahumarae*)

The Tarahumara frog, is a medium-sized (adults range from 2.5 to 4.5 in [64 to 114 mm] in snout-vent length), drab green-brown frog with small brown to black spots on the body and dark crossbars on the legs. Throughout its range the Tarahumara frog is typically associated with canyons and deep "plunge pools" formed am idst boulders or in bedroc k. Plunge pools in canyon s with low mean flow s (<0.2 cubic feet per second) and elatively steep gradients (> 60 m per km of stream) provide the best breeding sites. Permanent water is probably necessary for metamorphosis. Tarahumara frog habitats are located within oak, pine-oak woodland, or the Pacific coast tropical area (Sinaloan thornscrub and tropical deciduous forest).

In the United States, the species was known historically from six locales, including three from Santa Rita Mountains and three from Atascosa-Pajarito-Tumacacori Mountains complex, which are located north and west, respectively, of Nogales in Santa Cruz County, Arizona. Tarahumara frogs have been extirpated from all localities in Arizona. In September 2003, the USFWS announced plans to reintroduce this species back into suitable habitat in southern Arizona, including Sycamore Canyon.

Causes of population decline and extirpation are not clear, but the following factors have been implicated: winter cold, flooding or severe drought, competition with and predation by nonnative fish and bullfrogs, disease, habitat loss, and heavy metal poisoning. No direct impacts from the proposed TEP transmission line on the Tarahumara frog are anticipated. Indirect effects from increased erosion, increased risk of wildfire, or the introduction of nonnative species may impact individuals of this species, however, because of the distance of the project and the conservation measures (invasive species control, fire prevention plan, erosion control), only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be subject to potential impacts. Furthermore, those measures designed to minimize impacts to federally listed species within the potential reintroduction areas should provide adequate protection for the species. Therefore, impacts are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

Thick-billed kingbird (*Tyrannus crassirostris*)

The thick-billed kingbird is a relatively stocky flycatcher with a large head and heavy bill. This kingbird occurs from southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico south through western Mexico to western Guatemala. In Arizona, thick-billed kingbirds are most often seen around Sonoita and Arivaca creeks and in Madera and Guadalupe canyons. This species may occur in mountains of Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties where there are drainages with well-developed riparian areas. Habitat for the thick-billed kingbird consists of broad-leaved, riparian forests usually with well-developed large sycamores and cottonwoods at elevations ranging from 914 to 1,981 m (3,000-6,500 ft) (Tibbitts 1991).

Present distribution of the thick-billed kingbirds in Arizona is very limited. Potential threats include human recreational activities, encroachment of human development into breeding habitat, woodcutting, grazing, and groundwater depletion (Tibbitts 1991).

Because no potential habitat occurs within the project area, the proposed action will have no effect on the population status of the thick-billed kingbird.

Tropical Kingbird (Tyrannus melancholicus)

The tropical kingbird is a large tyrant-flycatcher with a large bill and long, slightly notched tail. The tropical kingbird ranges from southeastern Arizona through western and central Mexico to central Argentina. Breeding birds have been found in Tucson, along the Santa Cruz Valley from Green Valley south, east of Phoenix in the Salt River Valley, to the San Pedro Valley. This species also has been reported from Sopori Wash. The Tropical Kingbird inhabits open and semi-open areas with scattered trees and shrubs. Also found in urban areas and roadsides with tall human-made fixtures (Stouffer and Chesser 1998).

Tropical kingbirds seem to persist or even thrive in developed areas. No negative effects of human activities have been reported (Stouffer and Chesser 1998). The proposed transmission line may cross potential habitat for this species; however, construction within riparian habitats will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Placement of the transmission line may impact individual tropical kingbirds, however because of the linear nature of the project, only a small percentage of the population within the project area may be impacted. Furthermore, populations of this species occur outside of the project area. Therefore, impacts to tropical kingbirds are not likely to result in a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability.

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7.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACC Arizona Corporation Commission

ADEQ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

AGFD Arizona Game and Fish Department

AOU American Ornithologists' Union

ASLD Arizona State Land Department

AUM Animal Unit per Month

BA Biological Assessment

BLM Bureau of Land Management

BMP Best Management Practices

BO Biological Opinion

CFPO Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

Citizens Communications

CLF Chiricahua Leopard Frog

CNF Coronado National Forest

DBH Diameter Breast Height

DOE Department of Energy

EMA Ecosystem Management Area

ESA Endangered Species Act

GPS Global Positioning System

HDMS Heritage Data Management System

HEG Harris Environmental Group, Inc.

I-19 Interstate 19

LLNB Lesser Long-nosed Bat

MOA Memorandum of Agreement

MSO Mexican Spotted Owl

NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

OHV Off-Highway Vehicle

PAC Protected Activity Center

PPC Pima Pineapple Cactus

RNA Research Natural Area

ROW Right-of-way

RD Ranger District

RU Recovery Units

SL Standard Length

SWFL Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

TEP Tucson Electric Power

USDOI United States Department of Interior

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USFS United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

YOY Young-of-the-year

APPENDIX A

Natural Resource Agencies Correspondence.

- 1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dated 14 May 2002.
- 2. Arizona Game and Fish Department, dated 25 April 2002.

APPENDIX B

Plants documented along proposed ROW of the TEP Citizens Interconnect Project, July to October 2002.

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY
CACTUS & SUCCU	ULENTS		
	Agave parryi	century plant	Agavaceae
	Agave schottii	shindagger	Agavaceae
	Coryphantha scheeri		j. iga. i a a a a
	var. robustispina	Pima pineapple cactus	Cactaceae
	Dasylirion wheeleri	sotol	Agavaceae
	Echinocereus spp.	hedgehog cactus	Cactaceae
	Echinocereus pectinatus var. rigidissimus	Arizona rainbow cactus	Cactaceae
	Ferocactus wislizenii	fishhook barrel cactus	Cactaceae
	Fouquieria splendens	ocotillo	Fouquieriaceae
	Mammillaria spp.	pincushion cactus	Cactaceae
	Nolina microcarpa	beargrass	Agavaceae
	Opuntia spp.	cholla	Cactaceae
	Opuntia spp.	prickly pear	Cactaceae
	Opuntia spinosior	walkingstick cactus	Cactaceae
	Yucca elata	soaptree yucca	Agavaceae
GRASSES			
	Bouteloua barbata or		
	B. rothrockii	six-weeks or Rothrock grama	Poaceae
	Bothriochloa barbinodis	cane beard grass	Poaceae
	Bouteloua curtipendula	side oats grama	Poaceae
	Bouteloua gracilis	blue grama	Poaceae
	Bouteloua hirsuta	hairy grama	Poaceae
	Bouteloua parryi	Parry grama	Poaceae
	Bouteloua repens	slender grama	Poaceae
	Digitaria californica	Arizona cottontop	Poaceae
	Erioneuron pulchellum	fluffgrass	Poaceae
	Hilaria belangeri	curly mesquite	Poaceae
	Leptochloa dubia	green sprangletop	Poaceae
	Muhlenbergia emersleyi	bull grass	Poaceae
	Muhlenbergia rigens	deer grass	Poaceae
	Piptochaetium fimbriatum	pinyon rice grass	Poaceae
	Sporobolus spp.	dropseed	Poaceae
FORBS			
	Abutilon incanum	Indian mallow	Malvaceae
	Allionia incarnata	trailing windmills	Nyctaginaceae
	Ambrosia confertiflora	weakleaf burr ragweed	Asteraceae
	Amoreuxia palmatiflida	Arizona yellow show	Cochlospermaceae
	Argemone sp.	prickly poppy	Papaveraceae
	Artemisia ludoviciana	7 1 -11 7	Asteraceae
	Asclepias asperula	antelope horns	Asclepiadaceae
	Asclepias nummularia	tufted milkweed	Asclepiadaceae
	Asclepias tuberosa	butterfly milkweed	Asclepiadaceae
	Aspicarpa hirtella	aspicarpa	Malpighiaceae
	Boerhaavia coccinea	red spiderling	Nyctaginaceae
	Bouchea prismatica	bouchea	Verbenaceae
	роионва рнантанов	Doublea	verbenaceae

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY
FORBS (Cont.)			
,	Bouvardia glaberrima	smooth bouvardia	Rubiaceae
	Brickellia spp.	brickellbush	Asteraceae
	Chamaecrista serpens var. wrightii	sensitive pea	Fabaceae
	Cheilanthes fendleri	cloak fern	Pteridaceae
	Cheilanthes spp.	claok fern	Pteridaceae
	Chenopodium fremontii	lamb's quarter	Chenopodiaceae
	Clitoria mariana	butterfly pea	Fabaceae
	Cnidosculus angustidens	mala mujer	Euphorbiaceae
	Cologania longifolia	narrowleaf tick clover	Fabaceae
	Commelina dianthifolia	western dayflower	Commelinaceae
	Cucurbita digitata	coyote gourd	Cucurbitaceae
	Datura metaloides	sacred datura	Solanaceae
	Eleocharis spp.	spikerush	Cyperaceae
	Eriogonum wrightii	buckwheat	Polygonaceae
	Eryngium heterophylla	button snakeroot	Apiaceae
	Evolvulus alsinoides		Convolvulaceae
	Evolvulus arizonicus	Arizona blue eyes	Convolvulaceae
	Galium wrightii	northern bedstraw	Rubiaceae
	Glandularia gooddingii	verbena	Verbenaceae
	Gnaphalium leucocephalum	white cudweed	Asteraceae
	Gnaphalium wrightii	cudweed	Asteraceae
	Gomphrena sp.	globe amaranth	Amarnathaceae
	Gutierrezia spp.	snakeweed	Asteraceae
	Ipomoea barbatisepala	morning glory	Convolvulaceae
	Ipomoea coccinea	scarlet creeper	Convolvulaceae
	Ipomoea hirsutula	wooly morning glory	Convolvulaceae
	Ipomoea leptotoma	bird's foot morning glory	Convolvulaceae
	Ipomoea longifolia	long leaf morning glory	Convolvulaceae
	Isocoma tenuisecta	burroweed	Asteraceae
	Jatropha macrorhiza	Arizona desert potato	Euphorbiaceae
	Kallstroemia grandiflora	Arizona caltrop	Zygophyllaceae
	Krameria parvifolia	range ratany	Krameriaceae
	Machaeranthera spp.	spiny aster	Asteraceae
	Macroptilium gibbosifolium	variableleaf bushbean	Fabaceae
	Milla biflora	Mexican star	Liliaceae
	Oenothera rosea	evening primrose	Onagraceae
	Oxalis albicans	wild oxalis	Oxalidaceae
	Penstemon linarioides	linear leaf penstemmon	Scrophulariaceae
	Phaseolus ritensus	eggleaf stringbean	Fabaceae
	Phaseolus sp.	stringbean	Fabaceae
	Portulaca suffrutescens	portulaca	Portulacaceae
	Portulaca umbraticola	portulaca	Portulacaceae
	Proboscidea sp.	unicorn plant, devil's claw	Pedaliaceae
	Salvia subincisa	sawtooth sage	Lamiaceae

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY
FORBS (Cont.)		Confidential	2 111/1121
	Schoenocrambe linearifolia	schoenocrambe	Brassicaceae
	Scirpus sp.	bulrush	Cyperaceae
	Senna covesii	desert senna	Fabaceae
	Senna hirsuta	woolly senna	Fabaceae
	Solanum douglassii	greenspot nightshade	Solanaceae
	Solanum elaeagnifolium	silverleaf nightshade	Solanaceae
	Sphaeralcea spp.	globe mallow	Malvaceae
	Tagetes sp.	marigold	Asteraceae
	Talinum angustissimum	talinum	Portulacaceae
	Talinum aurantiacum	orange fameflower	Portulacaceae
	Tetramerium hispidum	tetramerium	Acanthatceae
	Thalictrum fendleri	Fendler's meadow rue	Ranunculaceae
	Vitis arizonica	Arizona grape	Vitaceae
	Zinnia acerosa	desert zinnia	Asteraceae
TREES & SHRUB	S	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Acacia angustissima	white ball acacia	Fabaceae
	Acacia constricta	whitethorn acacia	Fabaceae
	Acacia greggii	catclaw acacia	Fabaceae
	Aloysia wrightii	oreganillo	Verbenaceae
	Arctostaphylos sp.	manzanita	Ericaceae
	Baccharis salicifolia	seep willow	Asteraceae
	Baccharis sarothroides	desert broom	Asteraceae
	Calliandra eriophylla	fairyduster	Fabaceae
	Celtis pallida	desert hackberry	Ulmaceae
	Celtis reticulata	netleaf hackberry	Ulmaceae
	Chrysothamnus teretifolius	green rabbitbrush	Asteraceae
	Dodonaea viscosa	hopbush	Sapindaceae
	Ericameria laricifolia	turpentine bush	Asteraceae
	Erythrina flabelliformis	coral bean	Fabaceae
	Eysenhardtia orthocarpa	kidney wood	Fabaceae
	Fraxinus velutina	velvet ash; Arizona ash	Oleaceae
	Gossypium thurberi	desert cotton	Malvaceae
	Guardiola platyphylla	Apache plant	Asteraceae
	Hibiscus coulteri	desert rosemallow	Malvaceae
	Indigofera spaerocarpa	Sonoran Indigo	Fabaceae
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Arizona walnut	
	Juglans major		Juglandaceae
	Juniperus deppeana	alligator juniper	Cupressaceae
	Lasianthaea podocephala	San Pedro daisy	Asteraceae
	Lycium spp.	wolfberry	Solanaceae
	Mimosa biuncifera	catclaw mimosa	Fabaceae
	Mimosa dysocarpa	velvet pod mimosa	Fabaceae

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY				
TREES & SHRUBS (Cont.)							
	Parkinsonia microphylla	yellow paloverde	Fabaceae				
	Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood	Salicaceae				
	Prosopis velutina	velvet mesquite	Fabaceae				
	Q. arizonica	Arizona white oak	Fagaceae				
	Q. garrya	silktassel	Fagaceae				
	Quercus emoryii	Emory oak	Fagaceae				
	Rhus aromatica	skunkbush	Anacardiaceae				
	Rhus choriophylla	sumac	Anacardiaceae				
	Salix exigua	coyote willow	Salicaceae				
	Tamarix pentandra	salt cedar	Tamaricaceae				
	Ziziphus obtusifolia	graythorn	Rhamnaceae				

TEP-Citizen's Interconnect Project

Environmental Training Guidelines for Construction Supervisors

- Stay in the designated work areas. Approved work areas, access roads, and staging areas will be clearly marked. All project activities must remain in these areas. Do not work or trespass beyond the signed or fenced restricted work areas.
- Restrict vehicle access to public roadways and designated access roads. Crosscountry driving is prohibited.
- No driving or parking within 100 feet of ponds and tanks.
- Do not transfer water from one pond or tank to another or between any other bodies of water.
- No in-stream activity or disposal of construction debris or fill is allowed.
- Store topsoil and trench spoils behind sediment control structures at least 20 feet from any stream bank, including dry washes.
- Check equipment for leaks or heavy surface oil build-up before working in streams or washes.
- The use or transfer of hazardous materials will not be allowed within 100 feet of any stream or wash is prohibited.
- Do not litter. Dispose of trash in designated containers. Uncontained trash can attract wildlife and unwanted pests. Cigarette butts are considered litter, and should be extinguished and disposed of appropriately. All litter and construction debris must be removed from the job site daily.
- No pets or firearms. They are prohibited for job-site protection and protection of wildlife.
- Hunting is prohibited.
- Clearing will be limited to the minimum required to provide a safe construction area. Make sure you know the clearing limit, and if possible, leave plant root systems in place when clearing vegetation.
- It is illegal to harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, kill capture, or collect wildlife officially listed as threatened or endangered. Violation of threatened and endangered special laws can result in penalties of up to \$100,000 and/or 1year in jail.
- Do not approach or feed wildlife. Keep away form their burrows and nests. Do not harm or kill any wildlife encountered.
- If animal is harmed or found harmed, contact your Construction Supervisor or the Environmental Inspector. Do not attempt to move the animal yourself.

APPENDIX D

APPENDIX D. Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species under jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona as of 18 November 2003, excluded from further consideration.

COMMON	SCIENTIFIC						
NAME	NAME	STATUS	Навітат	JUSTIFICATION			
PLANTS							
Canelo Hills ladies' tresses	Spiranthes delitescens	Endangered	Finely grained, highly organic, saturated soils of cienegas. Potential habitat occurs in Sonora, Mexico, but no populations have been found.	No habitat present.			
Huachuca water umbel	Lilaeopsis schaffneriana ssp. recurva	Endangered	An emergent aquatic plant that requires marshy wetlands.	No habitat present.			
Kearney's blue star	Amsonia kearneyana	Endangered	Known only from the Baboquivari Mountains.	ROW is outside of known range.			
Nichol's Turk's head cactus	Echinocactus horizonthalonius var. nicholii	Endangered	Dependent on limestone substrates in desert hills.	No habitat present.			
FISH							
Desert pupfish	Cyprinodon macularius	Endangered	Shallow springs, small streams, and marshes. Tolerates saline and warm water.	No habitat present in area.			
Gila chub	Gila intermedia	Proposed Endangered	Small streams and cienegas; prefer deeper pools with cover.	No habitat present in area.			
Loach minnow	Tiaroga cobitis	Threatened	Requires perennial streams with swift water over cobble or gravel	No habitat present in area.			
Spikedace	Meda fulgida	Threatened	Requires perennial streams with swift velocities over sand and gravel.	No habitat present in area.			
AMPHIBIANS							
Sonoran tiger salamander	Ambystoma tigrinum stebbinsi	Endangered	Stock tanks and impounded cienegas in San Rafael Valley, Huachuca Mountains at 4,000-6,300 ft.	ROW is outside of known range. This species is not known to occur in the Nogales RD.			

APPENDIX D (*cont.*). Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species under jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona as of 18 November 2003, excluded from further consideration.

BIRDS				
Bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Threatened	Large trees or cliffs near water (reservoirs, rivers, and streams) with abundant prey.	Winter surveys of Peña Blanca and Arivaca lakes were conducted in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2002. No bald eagles have been observed.
California brown pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis californicus	Endangered	Coastal land and islands; species is found around many Arizona lakes and rivers.	No habitat present in area.
Masked bobwhite	Colinus virginianus ridgewayi	Endangered	Only known Arizona population has been reintroduced on Buenos Aires Natl. Wildl. Refuge	ROW is outside of known range.
Mountain plover	Charadrius montanus	Proposed Threatened	Open arid plains, short grass prairies, and cultivated farms.	No habitat present in area.
Northern apolomado falcon	Falco femoralis septentrionalis	Endangered	Grassland and savannah habitats.	No recent confirmed reports for Arizona.
MAMMALS				
Ocelot	Felis pardalis	Endangered	Prefers humid tropical & subtropical habitats; typically found at higher elevations.	ROW is outside of known range.
Jaguarundi	Felis yagouaroundi tolteca	Endangered	Deciduous forests, riparian areas, swampy grasslands, upland dry savannahs, etc.	ROW is outside of known range.
Sonoran pronghorn	Antilocapra americana sonoriensis	Endangered	Grassy desertscrub in northwestern Sonora and adjacent Arizona borderlands, mainly Yuma Co.	ROW is outside of known range.

STATUS DEFINITIONS: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Endangered: Imminent jeopardy of extinction.

Threatened: Imminent jeopardy of becoming endangered.

Proposed: Proposed Rule has been published in Federal Register to list as Threatened or Endangered.